

## MURDER TRIAL EVERY DAY

George Gill Breaks the Record For Speedy Trials of Capital Cases at Sallisaw.

Advised to The Daily Chieftain, Sallisaw, I. T., Dec. 22.—In the United States court at Sallisaw, during the present week, Judge Joseph Gill has broken the record in Indian Territory judicial circles in trying what is known as capital cases. Judge Gill has had a murder trial every day since his court was convened last week.

The first murder case was that of Davis, who was indicted by the grand jury for the murder of his friend, Tom Sanders, on September 3, 1904, near Park Hill in the Indian Territory. A jury was about to be called and the case submitted, when, there appearing to be no malice in the matter, Davis was permitted to plead guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to a term of ten years in the United States penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia.

The story of this case is a peculiar one. Davis and a number of friends, including Sanders, went to a neighborhood dance, and during the night, some cause, Davis was found waving a pistol and threatening to shoot. One of his friends rushed to him and tried to get him to give up. In the excitement, Davis shot his friend, Tom Sanders, who died directly in front of him, inflicting a wound from which Sanders died the next night. There was no ill feeling between Davis and Sanders—in fact, they were the best of friends—and Davis should thus shoot down his friend is a mystery which Davis himself cannot solve.

On the second day in court was taken the case of Henry Wilson, charged with the murder of Johnson Martin, of Vian, Indian Territory, January 24, 1904. This defendant charged with shooting Johnson through the arm and in the chest, causing death. The evidence showed that Wilson, Martin and others were at the home of Martin the night of January 24, 1904; that shots were heard out in the yard; that Johnson Martin was found fatally wounded, expiring a few minutes afterwards. When Henry Wilson was brought before the jury he confessed that he was guilty of the murder, and told the story of the killing. After hearing the confession, the jury returned a verdict of "guilty of murder without capital punishment," which means that the defendant is to be confined in the penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., for the term of natural life.

Congress, a few years ago, passed a law providing that in capital cases, where the jury saw fit, it could return a verdict of guilty and add the words "without capital punishment," in which event it became the duty of the court to sentence the convicted person to prison for life.

When Henry Wilson was told to go before the bar of justice to receive his sentence, a strange scene was enacted. Judge Gill had made the usual statement to Wilson; had recited the history of his crime, and was telling him that when he was dead to the world; that when once behind the prison bars he would only be known in the future by number, and was henceforth fully dead. As the judge pronounced the word "dead" the large church bell in the neighborhood began to toll for a funeral procession, and continued to toll until Judge Gill had finished telling the prisoner of what his future would be, and had assigned him to a term of his natural life in the United States prison at Atlanta. He had said: "Take your seat; that is the great bell ceased to toll. The man was sad, indeed, and little did he know that while he was waiting for the funeral without he was actually tolling for the funeral of Henry Wilson as well.

The next day of court was taken up with the case of the United States vs. William Youngblood. Youngblood was charged with having maliciously and wilfully aided and abetted one Hoolie Benge in the murder of Baldridge, a Cherokee Indian, at Sallisaw.

The testimony in this case showed that Hoolie Benge and Bine Baldridge were at a place where a man by the name of Toy Seabolt lived, and that as a conspiracy for the murder of Baldridge; that Benge raised a row and demanded some money from Baldridge, who owed him, and followed in which Benge

had beaten Baldridge nearly to death and then ran into the house to get a gun with which to finish the job. Friends of Baldridge interceded and William Youngblood kept them at a distance while Benge got a gun and shot Baldridge.

The story of this murder, as related by witnesses on the stand, was blood-curdling indeed, and the result was that the jury came very near sending Youngblood to the gallows. He was finally convicted of murder, without capital punishment, and sentenced to imprisonment in the Atlanta penitentiary for life.

Youngblood was indicted jointly with Benge and was placed on trial first. After Youngblood was convicted, Hoolie Benge and his attorneys, fearing that a jury would send Hoolie to the gallows, was permitted to go on the stand and confess his crime to the jury and plead for mercy. This jury, not knowing that so diabolical murder had been committed, returned a verdict of guilty without capital punishment, and Judge Gill sentenced Hoolie Benge to life imprisonment along with his accomplice, William Youngblood.

The courts attention on the next day was called to the case of Copper John, a mulatto, charged with having committed rape on a white woman named Martha Reed, who is now dead. The testimony before the jury showed that this negro had entered the home of Martha Reed, seized her and accomplished his purpose in the presence of her two daughters, who were before the jury and told of the awful crime. The evidence further showed that Copper John had dodged the officers for nearly year, but, upon learning that his victim was dead he came back to the Territory and the officers caught him. Judge Gill sentenced John to life imprisonment at Atlanta, the jury having returned a verdict of guilty, without capital punishment.

The next case, which was closed last night, was that of Joe Roe, a negro, charged with killing his brother-in-law, Clark Dannenberg, also colored.

The testimony showed that Joe Roe had taken Mattie Vann from Rowland, I. T., to Fort Smith, Ark., in order that she might consult with attorneys who were looking after a claim to citizenship in the Cherokee Nation. Late in the evening Mattie Vann started to walk home and Roe and his brother-in-law started in a one-horse buggy to overtake her and let her ride. When they caught up with her she got into the buggy and rode a short distance, when Dannenberg tried to turn the horse in the direction of Fort Smith and Roe grabbed the lines and tried to prevent him from doing so. The horse began kicking and Mattie Vann jumped out and ran on down the road. The next morning the dead body of Dannenberg was found near where the buggy was turned around.

The story of the killing was left to be told by Joe Roe, who said that Clark Dannenberg attacked him, hit him with a whiskey bottle and struck at him with a knife; that he backed up against the buggy and could get no further; that he caught Clark by the arm and took his own pocket knife, endeavoring to repel him, and struck at Clark. This one thrust hit Clark in the neck, severing the jugular vein and causing instant death.

The jury in this case thought that Joe was guilty of manslaughter, and rendered a verdict to that effect. Judge Gill has not yet passed sentence on Roe, but the law provides that the punishment shall be from one to ten years in the penitentiary, at the discretion of the judge.

The next case, which is now on trial, is that of Spring Frog, Christie, charged with the murder of an Indian boy near Stillwell, I. T. The killing, it is claimed, occurred over a jug of whiskey that had been shipped to the boy who was murdered. This case is expected to consume all of today.

In addition to these capital cases, a great many felony cases have been tried during the intervals of court, and many convictions had.

It is remarkable that in the Northern district of Indian Territory the people have never been known to take the law in their own hands. Although a murder is committed which seems fiendish, blood-thirsty and diabolical in its nature, the people know that the juries of this district always do their duty, and mete out speedy and swift justice to transgressors of the law.

The case of Copper John was so shocking, so revolting, that it would have seemed to justify the citizens in taking the law into their own hands, but confidence in the courts and the knowledge that juries in the Northern district do their whole duty, restrained them and case was permitted to go before the court for a fair and impartial trial.

Judge Gill during this term of court has broken the Indian Territory record for speedy trial of capital cases. J. C. STARR.

## 10 CENTS AN ACRE.

Estimate Cost of Dawes Commission to Indians.

## 7 YEARS REVIEWED

Administered Communal Estates of Five Civilized Tribes Comprising 20,000,000 Acres—Heavy Allotment Work—Interesting Figures.

The annual report of the Dawes commission on its work for the five civilized tribes of Indians in the Indian territory which has been made public is a general review of the partition and allotment of the lands of the Indians during the past six years.

"The time consumed in the change from the old system to the new," the commissioners say, "has been a most irksome period to the people of the Indian territory, and the commission is not unmindful of the fact that to many candid observers the execution of the task has seemed to be both tedious and expensive."

While admitting that criticism was to be expected the report goes on to say that it is not just, and to show that the time has been well occupied in securing a correct roll of the people and in obtaining a correct inventory of their property and in locating improvements.

Of the difficulties of these various divisions of the work, the report says: NINETY THOUSAND HAVE TRIBAL RIGHTS.

"Every adult or head of a family in a total of more than 200,000 citizens and claimants was personally examined and his previous tribal record was looked up. Of this number and in this way more than 120,000 have been examined since June 23, 1898. The proceedings were all taken down, especially as every case could be carried to Washington on appeal and often the appeal in a single case was hundreds of pages in extent. Of the above number of people approximately 50,000 will be finally adjusted to lawfully possess tribal membership and property rights; and it can readily be seen how a less careful course of procedure would have utterly dissipated the properties of the tribes.

"As to the appraisement of the land, it was thought that tracts of forty acres or a quarter of a quarter of a section, was as small a division as could reasonably be made the subject of personal inspection. This acreage was adopted as the unit in determining the grade and value of lands; but even this required the locating, inspecting, classifying and valuing of nearly 500,000 tracts of land.

"As for safeguarding the occupancy and improvement rights of the people, their houses, barns, fences and other improvements had to be located by actual surveys and with minute accuracy. Perhaps hardly a man in the territory knows the sectional divisions of his farm or the sectional location of a single one of his improvements, and hence there was no source of accurate information respecting these matters except the surveys and location of improvements made by the commission.

No More Suffering.

If you are in trouble with indigestion get a bottle of Kodol Dyspepsia Cure and see how quickly it will cure you. Geo. A. Thomason, of Spencer, Ia., says: "Have had dyspepsia for twenty years. My case was almost hopeless. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure was recommended and I used a few bottles of it and it is the only thing that has relieved me. Would not be without it. Have doctored with local physicians and also at Chicago, and even went to Norway with hopes of getting some relief, but Kodol Dyspepsia Cure is the only remedy that has done me any good, and I heartily recommend it. Every person suffering with indigestion or dyspepsia should use it." Sold by People's drug store. dw

## Christmas At The Churches.

A throng of little tots from the Sunday Schools gathered at the various churches Saturday night and enjoyed Christmas entertainments and the distribution of presents, Christmas trees, log cabins, etc. Christmas day the regular services were held at all the churches and large congregations assembled both morning and evening. The weather throughout the day was exceptionally fine.

## RECEIVED A BIBLE.

Farmer at Catoosa Fatally Struck By Neighbor.

A farmer at Catoosa, named Bowen, was stabbed Saturday night by the receipt of a Christmas present he had given and the wounds are said to be fatal.

The people of Catoosa gathered at the church to enjoy and celebrate Christmas festivities. An immense tree, laden with presents, candles, nuts and fruits, appeared to bring the message of peace and good will.

Bowen had placed a bible on the tree for his neighbor, a man named Hogan, when the latter's name was called he lustily shouted "here." When the bible was presented Hogan, being an infidel, considered it an insult and became enraged. Drawing a knife he attacked Bowen and inflicted several wounds. He then left the church and mounting his horse made his escape.

## Heart Fluttering.

Undigested food and gas in the stomach, located just below the heart presses against it and causes heart palpitation. When your heart troubles you in that way take Herbine for a few days. You will soon be all right. 50c at People's drug store. dw

## CHILD BURNED AT AFTON

Four Year-Old daughter of Jack Rogers Fatally Burned.

While the mother was gone after a bucket of water, Wednesday morning the little four year old girl of Jack Rogers was frightfully and perhaps fatally burned by some quilts catching afire. When the mother returned the bedding was in flames and the little ones' clothing burning. It was with difficulty the flames were extinguished and the child is believed to be fatally burned.

## A Thousand Dollars' Worth of Good

A. H. Thurman, a well known coal operator of Buffalo, O., writes: "I have been afflicted with kidney and bladder trouble for years, passing gravel or stones with excruciating pain. I got no relief from medicines until I began taking Foley's Kidney Cure, then the result was surprising. A few doses started the brick dust-like fine stones and now I have no pain across my kidneys and I feel like a new man. It has done me \$1,000 worth of good." Sold by the People's Drug Store. dw

## Bishop-Williams.

Miss Allie Williams, of Vinita, and J. C. Bishop, of Texas, were united in marriage Wednesday at the Methodist church at 9 o'clock. It was a very pretty church wedding. The decorations were of holly and mistletoe very artistically arranged. Rev. T. F. Brewer, of Muskogee, performed the ceremony. The bride was gown in a pretty traveling dress and carried a bouquet of holly tied with red ribbon. Dr. C. W. Day and Fred Bateloff were the ushers and the sweet strains of the wedding march were rendered by Mrs. Ewing Haisell. The happy couple left on the belated flyer for Sherman, Texas, at which place they make their future home. The Chieftain, with their many friends, extends congratulations and wishes them much happiness.

## A Pleasant Pill.

No Pill as pleasant and positive as DeWitt's Little Early Risers. DeWitt's Little Early Risers are so mild and effective that children, delicate ladies and weak people enjoy their cleansing effect, while strong people say they are the best liver pills sold. Sold by People's drug store. dw

## J. W. Adair Dead.

John Washington Adair died at his home three miles south of town Thursday night, after a sickness of four days duration with spinal meningitis. Mr. Adair was a Cherokee by blood, of one of the largest and best known Cherokee families. He was about fifty years old and had resided in this section many years. The deceased was an honest man and a good citizen, and leaves a wife and several children. The remains will be interred at the Landrum cemetery, south of town.

## Cured Paralysis.

W. S. Bally, P. O. True, Texas, writes: "My wife had been suffering five years with paralysis in her arm when I was persuaded to use Ballard's Snow Liniment, which cured her all right. I have also used it for cold sores, frostbites and skin eruptions. It does the work." The 50c and 15c People's drug store. dw

## DARING ROBBERY TUESDAY NIGHT

Man Held Up and Relieved of \$25 by Footpads.

W. H. Hammer, of Tulsa, was set upon and robbed between the two depots here last Tuesday night shortly after the night train came in from the west. As he was going toward the Katy depot, about half way from the Frisco, a man rose up with an open knife in his hand and demanded money. Mr. Hammer stepped backward and made as though he would draw a pistol when the man struck with the knife and cut through coat and vest and to the skin, making a rent in the garments. Just then two other men came up from behind and caught him by the arms and held him while his pockets were searched and \$25.00 taken, all he had with him. The robbers then disappeared. Mr. Hammer came up to meet his wife who came in on the 3:30 Katy from Versailles, Missouri.

## What You Cannot Afford.

You cannot afford to do without Dr. Boesche's German Syrup in the house if any of your family have a consumptive tendency, or if catarrhs, colds or bronchial affections are frequent visitors. German Syrup is a recognized and reliable remedy for consumption and the finest thing on earth for the throat and lungs. It will promptly check colds and is an infallible remedy for croup. German Syrup will keep the children healthy. Trial bottle, 25c. Big bottle, 75c. At Wimer's drug store.

## Churchill-Little.

At 2 o'clock Wednesday Miss Claudia Little and Barber Churchill were united in marriage at the home of the bride. It was a very quiet affair, only relatives being present. Rev. H. H. Watson performed the ceremony, after which they went to their home which is ready for house-keeping. The bride is a daughter of W. M. Little and has grown from childhood to womanhood in Vinita and is a very popular young lady. Mr. Churchill is an energetic young business man and they both have a host of friends who wish them an abundance of happiness.

## R-I-P-A-N-Stabules

Doctors find A good prescription For mankind. The 5-cent packet is enough for usual occasions. The family bottle (50 cents) contains a supply for 1 year. All druggists sell them. dw

## Suffered Stroke of Paralysis.

Dr. W. Frazee suffered a stroke of paralysis Tuesday at his room in the Wade building and for a time was unable to speak. Dr. Oliver Bagby was summoned and in a short time the effects of the stroke wore off and he has about recovered.

## Beware of Fake Pills.

"DeWitt's is the only genuine. Witch Hazel Salve," writes J. L. Tucker, of Centre, Ala. "I have used it in my family for Piles, Bats, and Burns for years and can recommend it to be the best Salve on the market. Every family should keep it, as it is an invaluable household remedy, and should always be kept on hand for immediate use." Sold by People's drug store. dw

## SURVEYORS COMING.

To Locate New Line to Coal Field.

A. Letter from F. A. McClelland, the promoter for the Northwest Railroad for which the bonus was recently raised, and who has been east in the interest of the enterprise, states that the surveying party expected to leave St. Louis Monday night for Vinita and that the work of locating the line would begin without delay.

## Mothers, Be Careful.

of the health of your children. Look out for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. Stop them in time—One Minute Cough Cure is the best remedy. Harmless and pleasant. Sold by People's drug store. dw

A grass widow isn't necessary in clover.

## Mrs. E. T. Ironsides Dead.

The death of Mrs. Eliza T. Ironsides occurred at Hefaso, Texas, Thursday and the remains were entered at that place. The lady's death was not altogether unexpected as she had long been a sufferer from pulmonary trouble and had gone to the southwest in quest of health. Mrs. Ironsides was the wife of Robert Ironsides who with his family resided here for more than twenty years. The deceased leaves a husband and two children, Miss Hynd and Robert Jr.

## CHEROKEE CLUB DANCE.

Kansas City Journal People Guests of Honor Last Night.

The Cherokee club gave a dance at their club rooms Friday night in honor of the Kansas City Journal correspondents who are touring the two territories. The attendance was exceptionally large, and it seemed that the very air in the spacious rooms breathed of gaiety, and when the sweet strains of music rendered by Frank Stevenson mingled with this breath the spark of genuine pleasure was set aglow and the dancing became lively, indeed, remaining so throughout the evening.

Some of the best dancers in the city belong to this club, and with the ladies, who are all naturally graceful dancers, they presented a most beautiful appearance, darting and whirling hither and thither, gliding over the smooth floor in perfect accord with the music.

Perhaps no other pastime has the same peculiar fascination as that of dancing, and, when given an opportunity like the one last evening at the Cherokee club rooms, Vinita young people certainly know how to enjoy and appreciate it.

## Amuse us for League.

The Muskogee Democrat of Thursday says the proposition to organize a territorial baseball league met with favor among the "fans" of that town, and that Ardmore had signified a willingness to enter such a league. They would also like to hear from Vinita, South McAlester, Parsons and other towns regarding the proposition. The fans here are all enthusiastic over the matter, and Vinita will be one of the first towns to secure franchise if the league is organized, and will put a team in the field that will be a credit to the organization.

## Boy's Life Saved from Membraneous Croup.

C. W. Lynch, a prominent citizen of Winchester, Ind., writes: "My little boy had a severe attack of membraneous croup, and only got relief after taking Foley's Honey and Tar. He got relief after one dose and I feel that it saved the life of my boy." Refuse substitutes. Sold by the Peoples Drug Store. dw

## New Presbyterian Pastor.

Rev. G. W. Snodgrass of Atoka has accepted the call to the Presbyterian pulpit in this city and will begin his work here January 4.

Mr. Snodgrass is a splendid preacher and has the reputation of being an indomitable worker as pastor. The Presbyterian church in Vinita has 142 members, a strong Sunday School, Ladies' Missionary Society, Ladies Aid Society, and has the best church property in the city having during the present year completed a \$8,000 brick church. The field is an exceedingly promising one and the new year begins auspiciously.

## The Pierian.

The second number of "The Pierian" has just been issued by the faculty and students of Willie Haisell College. It is a very neat little pamphlet of some thirty pages, containing a number of interesting articles on current literature, education and various other topics together with the local news of the institution.

Five hundred copies of the last number were printed but the management expects to increase this several hundred with the next issue, and the paper will not only have a good circulation here at home but will be sent to prospective students and friends of the school throughout the territory and adjoining states. The success of the paper depends in a measure upon its advertising patronage, and a number of our merchants, professional men and others who are interested in the school have contributed to its support in this way which is greatly appreciated by the faculty and the students, as it is in the beginning that such enterprises need financial help, as it is yet only an experiment. If it survives the first year and we have every reason to believe it will, it will have then created a field of its own and be better able to care for itself. It is a good advertising medium for its patrons as well as being an advertisement itself of the educational advantages of our town. Help it along by advancing it a year's subscription and giving it whatever advertising patronage your business will justify.

## Coughs, Colds and Constipation.

Few people realize when taking cough medicines other than Foley's Honey and Tar, that they contain opiates which are constipating besides being unsafe, particularly for children. Foley's Honey and Tar contains no opiates, is safe and sure and will not constipate. People's Drug Store. dw